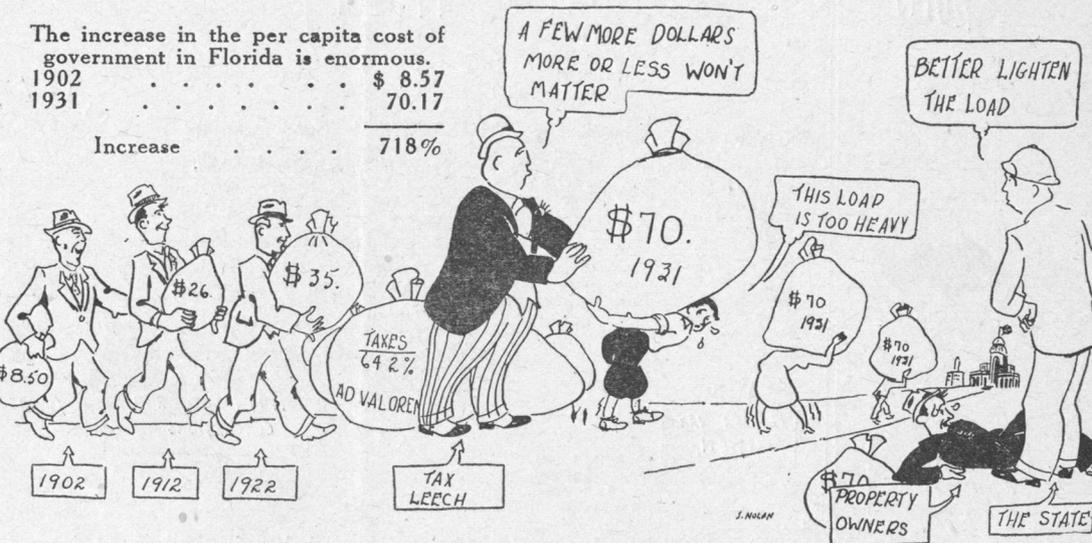


The increase in the per capita cost of government in Florida is enormous.

1902	\$ 8.57
1931	70.17

Increase	<u>718%</u>
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According to figures recently made available the cost of all state and local government in Florida is slightly less than 100 million dollars per year, and more than half of this cost of government, or 50 million dollars, is raised from ad valorem taxes on property. The United States Department of Commerce shows the cost of government in Florida—state, county and city—amounts to \$70 per year for each man, woman and child in the State. This is an increase of approximately 718% over the cost in 1902. A reasonable increase in our cost of government since that date is justifiable but an increase from \$8.57 per capita to \$70.17 per capita is utterly ridiculous. The main reasons for this increase is the large number of governmental units in the State totaling, as previously mentioned, 1497, all having authority to levy taxes in some form and spend the revenue thus raised. The result is useless duplication and wide-spread extravagance.

In recent years many attempts have been made by various organizations to effectively reduce the cost of government in Florida without success. Just so long as the present tax structure produces revenue the office holders of the government are not going to take it upon themselves to promote revision, AND MANY OF OUR OFFICIALS ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MODERNIZATION OR REVISION OF OUR TAX STRUCTURE, FEARING THE ABOLITION OF THEIR POLITICAL CLIQUES AND MACHINES, ON WHICH THEY EXIST. It is, therefore, necessary that some organization produce a plan whereby the unjust and unfair practice of our present tax revenue system be entirely abolished. When that is done the next step of re-vamping our entire governmental set-up will be simple.

It is necessary that we change the constitution of the State to force this revision all along the line. The State of Florida is tax ill. The only way it can recover is to remove the cause—that cause is too much government cost, and unequal distribution as well.

Remember our program is in no way a program of criticism of our present officials; they did not make it; they are simply operating under it. The tax system has been handed down to us by past generations. We have improved and modernized our business methods and our general manner of living, yet we continue to operate under a tax system that is completely out of date. The only ones to revise it are you—the people.